

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NEA-10 EA-10 L-03 /083 W

-----081293 221603Z /40

R 220745Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0798

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0251

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, US, UK, UR, SE

SUBJECT: FIRST NON-COURTESY SOVIET SHIP VISIT TO SEYCHELLES

REF: VICTORIA 246 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER PUGH INFORMED CHARGE MARCH 22 THAT SEYCHELLES' GOVERNMENT HAS NOTIFIED HIM OF ITS INTENTION TO APPROVE VISIT REQUEST FOR SOVIET NAVAL VESSEL. MARCH 31-APRIL 6 CALL AT PORT VICTORIA BY 6,000 TON NAVAL RESCUE SHIP "YAMAL" IS DESCRIBED BY GOS AS "ROUTINE" VISIT AND, AS SUCH, IS FIRST NON-COURTESY VISIT BY SOVIET VESSEL. PUGH SAID MOFA INDICATED SHIP WILL TAKE ON PROVISIONS AND THERE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AN EXCHANGE OF COURTESY CALLS.

2. COMMENT: SINCE FIRST SOVIET WARSHIP VISITED SEYCHELLES IN NOVEMBER 1977 TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMEMORATION OF 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOLSHIEVIK REVOLUTION, SOVIETS HAVE ACCELERATED PACE OF VISIT REQUESTS. ALTOGETHER, ASSUMING SCHEDULED SHIP VISIT AT TIME OF FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF JUNE 5 COUP D'ETAT MATERIALIZES, SOVIETS WILL HAVE HAD TOTAL OF FOUR VISITS WITHIN SIX MONTH PERIOD. THIS FREQUENCY APPROXIMATES USN RATE FOR 1977 AND IS CONFIDENTIAL

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ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THAT OF FRENCH NAVY. CHANGE IN CHARACTER OF YAMAL VISIT IS SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE AND MAY ALSO IMPACT ON UNRESOLVED MILITARY ACCESS ISSUE UNDER ISLANDS' AGREEMENT. PUGH PLANNING MEET WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS ON ISLANDS' AGREEMENT PROCEDURES MARCH 28. MATTSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, YAMAL M/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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